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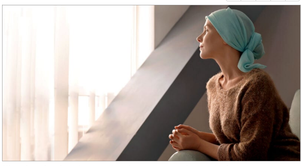
We Should Get Rid of the Toxic Exposures That Cause Cancer — Not Normalize the Disease

The author of a recent Washington Post op-ed claimed most people think cancer is caused by environmental factors when it's actually a "natural disease of aging." But Kristina Marusic, author of "A New War On Cancer: The Unlikely Heroes Revolutionizing Prevention," said the Washington Post op-ed got it wrong.

By Environmental Health News



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By Kristina Marusic

I was shocked to see a blatant attempt to normalize cancer as an inevitability in a recent Washington Post op-ed by former environmental reporter David Ropeik.

While Ropeik reasonably notes that some cancers (prostate) are overtreated, the rest of his argument is absurd. Of course, Americans have reason to fear the second leading cause of death in the U.S. — particularly when 90 to 95% of cancer is preventable.

Any cancer survivor will tell you they'd have preferred prevention over a cure. Treatment is painful and many survivors experience side effects and additional health problems related to the disease or its treatment that linger for a lifetime.

This outlook posits that survival is all that matters and is the best we should dare hope for, denying the universal human desire for a healthy, comfortable quality of life for ourselves and the people we love.

Suggesting that we should no longer worry about preventing cancer because treatments have gotten better is like saying cars have gotten much safer, so none of us should bother wearing seatbelts anymore.

Ropeik says most people think cancer is caused by environmental factors when it's actually a "natural disease of aging."

But we've seen a dramatic, global increase in cancers among children and young adults over the last 50 years, which many researchers believe is linked to a corresponding increase in our exposure to new chemicals in the environment.

There's evidence to suggest that rising cancer rates among older adults are the result of a lifetime of cumulative exposure to harmful chemicals.

He also says governments should spend less on reducing environmental carcinogens to focus on pollutants that cause other diseases, pointing to fine-particulate air pollution as an example, ignoring the fact that air pollution alone causes up to 29% of all lung cancer deaths and is linked to many other types of the disease.

Ironically, his example demonstrates how reducing many of the most prevalent environmental risk factors for cancer, such as air pollution and endocrine-disrupting chemicals, would simultaneously reduce the risk of many other types of diseases, including heart disease, autoimmune disorders and reproductive health problems.

This is not an either/or situation, as Ropeik posits — it's both.

Ropeik and I agree on one key point: More and earlier screening for cancer and pressuring individuals to manage their risk through personal lifestyle changes are not complete solutions.

But he overlooks an obvious, untapped solution: Systematically protecting humans from harmful chemical exposures that raise our risk for cancer and many other diseases.

Fundamentally, Ropeik seems to say that because other things also pose a threat to human health, we should stop worrying about cancer and its environmental causes. That's just ridiculous: We should do all we can to prevent unnecessary, inequitable suffering and death.

Originally published by Environmental Health News.

Kristina Marusic covers environmental health and justice issues in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania for Environmental Health News. Her new book, "A New War On Cancer: The Unlikely Heroes Revolutionizing Prevention," uncovers an emerging national movement to prevent cancer by reducing our exposure to cancer-causing chemicals in our everyday lives.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Children's Health Defense.

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SeeGreen
9 days ago
I've seen so many "sudden" deadly cancers take friends and acquaintances, that I've lost count in the last six months. I believe the jabs are to blame. Each of them has died within about 2 months of diagnosis. All were jabbed.
10 Reply Share

RHEY SeeGreen
8 days ago edited
Absolutely! Oncologist Dr. William Makis and Pathologist Dr. Ryan Cole are two of many experts who've been sounding the alarms on TURBO CANCERS caused by the clot shots.
Reply Share

Bev Jo
9 days ago
I agree that cancer is being normalized when it used to be incredibly rare. Showing women covering their heads because they obeyed the doctors with toxic "treatment" (chemo-poison and radiation) adds to normalizing this, so people actually say that cancer will make them bald. That has nothing to do with the cancer itself.
The doctors also do not give informed consent. Cancer-causing radioactive scans are presented in the media as if they prevent cancer, when the truth is that they cause it.
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Reply Share

BChristine
9 days ago edited
Of course, The Washington Post will not allow me to read the article without signing me up and sending me in a tailspin .... so I can only comment on this article which is spot-on.
Accepting a cancer diagnosis and the toxic treatments that go along with it to fill BIG Medicine and BIG Pharma's pockets is just a cop-out. I lost two family members - one being my husband - who bowed and believed their Doctors, when exactly the opposite happened. "New" toxic drugs and an another intense round of Chemo was given to my husband to extend his life ... even though he was CLEARLY not strong enough to handle what they dished out. I tried to stop him to try alternative therapies which were successful, but he "believed", as so many others did, and less than two months in, he passed. I lost him November 2020 during the height of Covid, which may have played a part also.
I realize some people have had successful outcomes with Radiation and Chemo, but IMO, the majority of the time it comes back to bite you if you have not changed to a healthier lifestyle – at least as much as you can in this toxic world.
It angers me how many lives were lost exactly for the reasons pointed out in this article .... yet they have been working for DECADES on a cancer "cure", and continue to reap funds from people who think they are making real progress. LOOK at the stats! We know what the major causes - if not ALL causes of cancer are. Yet the government, agencies, big corporations continue to allow us to be poisoned.
Reply Share

C. cc BChristine
9 days ago
I agree. The clots shots harmed 2 friends who now have stage 3 pancreatic cancer and stage 2 lung cancer. I gave them contacts for Integrative Medical practices and it fell on deaf ears. Both friends have gone thru chemo & radiation and are now scheduled for major surgery!!! I would not trust any hospital for any reason following the pathetic treatment in hospital post-covid! These friends are well educated in their professions & refused to read medical articles on vitamin c and curcumin! Brain-washed by doctors in white coats!!
Reply Share

BChristine C. cc
9 days ago
Exactly. I have two older brothers - overly educated - and they thought their little sister (me) was an idiot for not taking the jabs .... I was always proud I didn't and TG I had the critical thinking skills to know better.
Reply Share

Isabella Russo C. cc
5 days ago
And therein lies the problem - they were both 'educated' people who would have been fed tripe during their so called education years. I have a close friend who studied law in the 80's in Australia who believed all the hype regarding Covid, the masks, etc. that she even asked me to wear a mask outside when I visited her to drop something off! Anyway, why treat cancers with chemicals which do all manner of things to the human body? This has never made sense to me before Covid and more so now that we know the money being made by big pharmaceutical companies, et al.
Reply Share

Sandbumers BChristine
8 days ago
I think of this everytime I see those St. Jude appeals for funds on TV. Wouldn't it be so much better to NOT POISON CHILDREN in the first place, as well as ourselves? So sad what our society has accepted at the pushing of corporations and politicians who've profited from it handsomely. Even so, I'd wager that many of those who profit have also been subjected to the scourge that is cancer. As Chief Seattle said, whatever we do to the web of life, we do to ourselves!
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BChristine Sandbumers
6 days ago
I totally agree!
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Diane Chase BChristine
8 days ago edited
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Kathy Trottier
7 days ago
How else would big pharma make their money?
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Sandbumers Kathy Trottier
6 days ago
And they don't merely want to make a reasonable amount of money. No, it must be an OBSCENE amount, at the expense of peoples' health & lives.
Reply Share

jann
6 days ago
Fear is the first thing that will kill.
Reply Share

F Lubitz
9 days ago
Right on ! totally agree. I think corporations should be selling only health supporting products .
Reply Share

irishsp
5 days ago
Of course cancer is being "normalized" - there's massive money in the torture..sorry 'treatment protocols.'
Reply Share

Tershia
6 days ago
Speaking to a volunteer in the BC Cancer Society in Vancouver, the increase in cancer rates in the last year is

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